

University of Denver
Faculty Senate
Minutes
May 29, 2009
Renaissance Room South

Senators (or proxies) present: Bill Anderson, Rick Barbour, Rodney Buxton, Victor Castellani, Frederique Chevillot, Bonnie Clark, Judith Fox, Katherine Freeman, Sylvia Hall-Ellis, John Hill (Executive Secretary), Jennifer Hoffman, Peggy Keeran, Ramon Kireilis, Brian Kiteley, Maciej Kumosa, James LaVita, Richard Leaman, Tiffani Lennon, Scott Leutenegger, Michael Levine-Clark (President), Mario Lopez, Chris Malloy, Don McCubbrey, Keith Miller, Viva Moffat, Mia Mulvey, Rahul Nair, Kim Newman, Paul Novak, Linda Olson, Scott Phillips, Tom Quinn, Colleen Reed, Charles Reichardt, Dean Saitta, Nancy Sampson, Sheila Schroeder, George Straface, Liyakatali Takim for Sandy Dixon, Linda Tate, David Thomson, Nancy Wadsworth, and Wilfried Wilms.

Call to Order

Michael Levine-Clark, Faculty Senate President, called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed everyone.

A motion to approve the minutes from May 8, 2009 was seconded and approved.

Provost's Report

Undergraduate admissions are very good: We have 1256 deposits, and our budget plans for a starting class of 1145. The summer "melt" has not yet started. We expect to have about 1300 accepted by early June. The melt will reduce this figure 10-14 percent by the time classes start in the fall. Other institutions are facing more difficult situations.

It is early in the graduate admission process, therefore numbers are less precise. For example, the Daniels MBA admissions are unclear, yet there is no evidence of a significant shortfall in overall graduate admissions.

Associate Provost Search— Based on discussions with both the search committee and the Deans, we will not move forward with any of the candidates; none of the nine applicants made it out of the search committee. This is an important position that exists at every University. The Provost will seek an interim appointment for two or three years, and then review the situation. He will maintain close contact with the search committee and the Deans.

Barbara Wilcots has been selected as the Associate Provost for Graduate Studies; she has already started her work in the new position.

Jennifer Karas has been appointed to the newly-created position of Associate Provost for Undergraduate Academic Programs. She will serve as the permanent chair of the Undergraduate Council and help prepare for the HLC review and visit. This is a coordinating position and is not a return to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies. The rotating chair for Undergraduate Council has not worked well.

The academic Associate Provosts will meet periodically with the Deans.

The General Education curriculum updates will be presented to FEAC in the fall. We expect the revisions to be approved. The central coordinating committee will prepare for implementation in fall 2010. The central committee will ensure equity and full participation by all units. Oversight will be accomplished by faculty committees within units.

Questions and Answers

Regarding the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Academic Programs, Dean Saitta asked whether we should consider having a search and perhaps return to a leadership position (e.g., Vice Provost). He also expressed concern about the “Balkanization” of the curriculum. The Provost stated the previous model did not work well for several reasons: 100 percent of the core was taught on overload; the Vice Provost also had no faculty; there was little faculty involvement or sense of ownership; and the structure was easily ignored. It did not work well to have the core owned by someone without faculty.

In response to a question, the Provost stated that the position description for the Associate Provost for Research had not hindered the search. Also, he does not see a need to rewrite the description.

Senate Reapportionment

President Levine-Clark: We have had several readings and discussions regarding this. The basic principle is there would be approximately one Senator for each ten faculty members. Units with fewer than ten faculty members would have at least one Senator. There are two documents related to this matter: a spreadsheet listing the number of Senators per unit, and an amendment to the Senate Constitution. If these are approved, they would go to the Board of Trustees in the fall. Assuming Trustee approval, elections for additional Senators would be held in the fall.

Sylvia Hall–Ellis: In response to a question, Sylvia explained that University College would go from two Senators to one Senator since adjuncts were not included in determining the number of senators assigned to units. Sylvia added that reapportionment occurs every few years, but there is not an established schedule for it.

Jack Donnelly moved to amend the reapportionment proposal such that University College remains at two Senators and that the total number of Senators be increased from 67 to 68.

A motion to suspend the rules and approve Jack’s amendment was made, seconded and passed:

YES—39
NO—1
ABSTAIN—2

A motion to approve the amendment to the Senate Constitution was made, seconded and passed:

YES—40
NO—0
ABSTAIN—0

Grade Expectations (Academic Planning)—Brian Kiteley

Discussion about the Proposal for Reducing Grade Inflation:

The most recently distributed Grade Expectations document is simplified and some data have been updated. It is intended to inform faculty about grade inflation only. Faculty can use the information to self-assess and adjust as they see fit. It does not establish GPA goals and is not intended to be used in faculty evaluations. The Deans already have the ability to compute this information now.

The current average GPA at DU is 3.3; 20 years ago it was 2.7.

Many Senators expressed concern about how the GPA information would be used. Several also asked what was being done to educate students about grade expectations.

Brian suggested that the “educate the faculty” function might be performed by CTL.

It was suggested that the Committee convene a faculty symposium on grading.

A motion to approve the Proposal for Reducing Grade Inflation was made, seconded and passed:

YES—31
NO—1
ABSTAIN—9

Senate Elections Results

New Senators elected for a three-year term, 2009-2012

Nicholas Rockwell, History Department
Ralph DiFranco, Languages & Literature Department
Paul Colomy, Sociology & Criminology Department
Allison Horsley, Theatre Department
Chris GauthierDickey, Computer Science Department

Rick Leaman, School of Accountancy (DCB)
Robert Mill, School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management (DCB)
Don McCubbrey, International Technology and Electronic Commerce (DCB)
Frank Laird, Korbel School of International Studies (JKSIS)
Judith Fox, Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSPP)
Stacey Freedenthal, Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW)
Justin Marceau, Sturm College of Law (SCOL)
Ved Nanda, Sturm College of Law (SCOL)
Paula Rhodes, Sturm College of Law (SCOL)
Paul Novak, University College

Senators elected to serve remaining portion of a term

Larry Conyers, Anthropology Department
Laird Hunt, English Department
Mohammed Matin, Electrical Engineering Department

Faculty Senate Elections

President-elect (1 year term, 2009-10)

Don McCubbrey, International Technology and Electronic Commerce (DCB) [President-elect (2009-10); President (2010-12); Past President (2012-13)]

Faculty Forum Editor (1 year term, 2009-10)

Peggy Kerean, Penrose Library

Senator At-Large (2 positions, 3 year terms, 2009-12)

Nancy Sampson, Management Department (DCB)
Robert Stencel, Physics and Astronomy Department

Executive Committee At-Large (2 year term, 2009-11):

Frédéric Chevillot (Languages & Literature)
Tiffani Lennon (The Women's College)

BOT/Financial Planning Committee Chair (2 year term, 2009-11):

Rick Leaman, School of Accountancy (DCB)

BOT/Faculty Educational Affairs Committee (3 year term, 2009-12)

Frank Laird, Korbel School of International Studies

Undergraduate Council (1 year, 2nd year of 2 year term)

Nancy Sampson, Management Department (DCB)

Graduate Council (2 year term, 2009-11)

Paul Sutton, Geography Department

Elections coordinated by the Faculty Senate

Faculty Review Committee (3 year term, 2009-12)

Penrose Library–Jeanne Abrams

Natural Sciences and Mathematics–Alvaro Arias

Morgridge College of Education–Patrick Sherry (election will be held in Fall 2009)

Social Sciences Division–Bernadette Calfellel

Committee Reports

Student Relations—Paul Novak

- The textbook flyer from the bookstore includes the Faculty Senate resolution regarding textbooks. It also has a list of items faculty should keep in mind as they select textbooks.
- On Thursday September 10, 2009 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. there will be a graduate student cookout and resource fair on the Driscoll Green. This is an excellent opportunity for graduate students to socialize and gather information about graduate programs.
- The Student Relations Committee is experiencing high turnover this year, so please consider joining it.

Athletics—Nancy Sampson

A broad review is underway. Topics include graduation rates, financial transparency, admissions processes, and equal access to majors. Athlete eligibility is reviewed each quarter; this includes grades and progress towards a degree. The department is seeking to identify and gain admittance to a suitable conference. The key issue is men's basketball, since it is the primary revenue source for most athletic departments.

Agenda Items for Next Year

President Levine-Clark led a discussion to identify possible agenda items for next year. The identified items include:

- Faculty salaries
- Follow up processes for issues discussed and voted on by the Senate; Senate positions often seem to be ignored, e.g., the tobacco-free campus initiative.
- Senate should assert its power more forcefully and effectively
- Review Conflict of Commitment policy

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was introduced, seconded, and passed. President Levine-Clark adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

John Hill

Faculty Senate Executive Secretary